

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01 EUR-25 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 SSO-00

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P 221808Z MAR 74

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 185

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JEC PARIS 7182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: VN, PINT

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 45TH PLENARY SESSION

MARCH 22, 1974

REF: USDEL JEC PARIS 11449

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. A "NEW" PRG SIX-POINT PLAN, VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT PRESENTED LAST APRIL 25, TOOK UP THE SESSION. DURING AN UNUSUALLY LENGTHY DISCUSSION PERIOD THI (PRG) DECLINED TO ELABORATE UPON ANY OF THE POINTS BUT STOOD FAST UPON HIS WRITTEN PRESENTATION. THE GVN (PHONG) HAD RENEWED ITS OFFER OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT LEADING TO ELECTIONS JULY 20 AND CALLED AGAIN FOR INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. IT WAS AGREED TO REVOLVE MARCH 29. PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE "NEW" PRG PROPOSALS INCLUDED A POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCE (MATCHED BY ONE HELD BY THE GVN) AND STATEMENTS ENDORSING THE PLAN ISSUED BY TWO EX-MINISTERS, "THIRD FORCE" LEADERS MINH AND CHAU. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE PRG ("AMBASSADOR" THI, ACTING CHIEF OF DEL)

PRESENTED ITS MUCH-VAUNTED STATEMENT IN SIX POINTS
PURPORTING TO CONSTITUTE A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT
OF POLITICO-MILITARY ISSUES. THE PROPOSAL CALLED
FOR:

- (1) IMMEDIATE PROCLAMATION AND APPLICATION OF A
CEASEFIRE;
- (2) RETURN OF ALL CAPTURED AND DETAINED PERSONNEL BY
JUNE 30;
- (3) IMMEDIATE GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES;
- (4) FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD (NCNRC) WITHIN THREE
MONTHS AFTER THE CEASEFIRE GOES INTO EFFECT, WHILE
BEFOREHAND IN JOINT OR SEPARATE DECLARATIONS BOTH
SIDES WILL HAVE INDICATED THEIR READINESS TO
UNDERTAKE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE "THIRD FORCE";
- (5) GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD WITHIN ONE YEAR
AFTER FORMATION OF THE NCNRC;
- (6) BOTH SIDES "TO REACH AGREEMENT ON APPROPRIATE
REDUCTION OF MILITARY FORCES AND DEMOBLIZATION OF
SUCH REDUCTIONS".

3. PHONG (ACTING CHIEF, GVNDL) CALLED FOR "A
MORE DIRECT DIALOGUE
" WITH THE PRG THROUGH LESS
FORMAL ENCOUNTERS THAN THE PRESENT LA CELLE ST.
CLOUD PLENARIES AFFORDED. THE REST OF HIS
PREPARED REMARKS CONSISTED OF REAFFIRMATION OF THE GVN
PROPOSALS OF JANUARY 25, WHICH WOULD CULMINATE IN
GENERAL ELECTIONS JULY 20.

4. IN AN UNUSUALLY LONG PERIOD OF IMPROMPTU
DIALOGUE PHONG ATTEMPTED TO DISSECT THE "NEW"
PRG "PACKAGE DEAL". PHONG POINTED OUT THAT THE
PRG HAD TAKEN ITS APRIL 25, 1973 SIX POINTS
(REFTEL IN EXACTLY THE SAME ORDER AND HAD ONLY
ADDED TWO SPECIFICS: THE TARGET DATES FOR NCNRC
FORMATION AND THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS. BESIDES
PROTESTING THAT THE PROPOSED PRG PERIODS FOR
COMPLETING POLITICAL EVOLUTION WERE CONSIDERABLY
LONGER THAN THE GVN ENVISAGED, PHONG COMPLAINED
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THAT THE PRG POINTS WERE "EXCEEDINGLY VAGUE".
FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRG OFFERED NO CRITERIA FOR
DETERMINING WHO CONSTITUTED THE "THIRD FORCE",
WHEREAS THE GVN PLAN CALLED FOR THE NCNRC
"THIRD COMPONENT" TO BE DESIGNATED JOINTLY BY
BOTH SVN PARTIES.

5. ON THE CEASEFIRE, PHONG REMINDED THI THAT

ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN EFFECT, AND THE TASK WAS TO MAKE IT AND THE INSTITUTIONS OVERSEEING IT EFFECTIVE, NOT ESTABLISH ANEW, THIRD CEASEFIRE. IN CLOSING A LONG ANALYSIS OF THE PRG PLAN PHONG CHALLENGED THI TO RESPOND TO THE TVN REQUEST FOR INFORMAL CONTACTS.

6. THI, RESPONDING HALTINGLY AND WITH UNEASINESS, ONLY REITERATED PORTIONS OF HIS WRITTEN TEXT. HE OFFERED NO JUSTIFICATIONS OR AMPLIFICATIONS OF THE PRG PROPOSALS; AND MADE NO RESPONSE ON THE QUESTION OF CONTACTS.

7. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE MARCH 29.

8. BOTH SIDES HELD POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCES AT WHICH LITTLE OF INTEREST EMERGED. THI DEFENDED THE PRIORITY GIVEN BY THE PRG TO ESTABLISHING A NEW CEASEFIRE ON THE GROUNDS THAT AN EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE REMAINED A FUNDAMENTAL, UNFULFILLED PREREQUISITE FOR RESTORATION OF PEACE IN SVN.

9. "THIRD FORCE" FIGURES HO THONG MINH AND NGUYEN HUU CHAU ISSUED A STATEMENT TODAY SUPPORTING THE PRG PROPOSALS AND CALLING ON THE GVN TO GIVE THEM SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND TO WORK WITH THE PRG TO ACCOMPLISH THE PLAN'S AIMS. MOSSLER

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